

A STUDY ON PROFILE CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBAL WOMEN ON DOMESTIC WATER SANITATION PRACTICES IN ADILABAD DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

A present study was conducted on profile characteristics of tribal women on domestic water sanitation practices. For the study, based upon the nature of the research problem and objectives of the present study, experimental research design was selected. A total of 60 tribal women from three mandals of Adilabad district were selected using random sampling technique. The district of Adilabad was selected purposively as the tribes are densely populated when compared to the other districts of the state. Tribal mandals selected for the study were Rebbena, Tandur and Kerameri. Interview schedule was developed for data collection. Frequencies and percentages were used for data analysis. The results of the study were revealed that majority (46.6%) of the tribal women were middle aged followed by young age (35%). Majority of them were illiterates (48.33%), followed by high school education (23.33%) and primary schooling (18%). More than half (51.66%) of them belonged to medium size family followed by small size (43.3%) family. Majority of the tribal women (66.66%) had pucca houses. Agriculture is the main occupation of the majority of the tribal women

KEYWORDS: Research Problem, Experimental Research, Belonged to Medium, Rebbena, Tandur and Kerameri

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INTRODUCTION

Tribal people in India play a key role in constructing the cultural heritage and occupied a major part in the history as they are considered as the true habitants of India. They scattered in different parts and they form a considerable number of the population of India. Each tribal community has made them distinguishable from each other and their cultural and traditional heritage add colour and variation to the Indian culture.

Tribal people in India reside in approximately fifteen per cent of the country's area. They live in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains, forests, hills and inaccessible areas that perhaps lie dotted in the panoramic Indian terrain.

Majority of the tribal people in Indian particularly live in an unhealthy and unclean surroundings due to lack of access to safe water and sanitation facilities. Water, sanitation, health and nutrition and human well being are directly linked. Drinking water, improper disposal of human excreta, lack of personal and food hygiene and improper disposal of solid and liquid waste have been major causes of many diseases in India. It is estimated that around 30 million people suffer from water related illnesses. Children particularly girls and women are the most affected.

Tribal population in India in 1991 census had recorded 67.8 million of population and they constitute 8 per cent of the national population. These tribal groups are very heterogeneous. According to Article 342 of the Constitution, the Scheduled Tribes are the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within these tribes and tribal communities which have been declared as such by the President through a public notification.

According to the 2011 Census, growth rate of the tribal population during 2001-2011 is 23.7% which is higher than India's total decadal growth (17.6%). The tribal population of India constitutes 8.6% of total population of the country and majority of them. The total population of the district is 2,741,239, out of which the tribal population is 17.78 % as per 2011 census. The Gonds are predominant among the tribes and constitute about 50% of the tribal population. Adilabad has a sex ratio of 1003 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 61.55%.

Adilabad district is situated on the northern boundary of Telangana, forming a border with Maharashtra on the north, east and western borders and Nizamabad and Karimnagar districts of Telangana on the southern border. It is the second largest district in the Telangana region and occupies an area of 16,128 square kilometers, surrounded with 44.8 percent of the thick forest area. According to district data base in Adilabad 85.3% had access to electricity, 88% had drinking water, 25.3% toilet facilities and 10.4% lived in a pucca houses.

Lalitha (2014) conducted a study to find out the 'Tribal Diversity in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana: A Comparative Analysis' of the educated lot. The results brought out an alarming fact that 69% of the tribal population is illiterate, 13% have completed primary education and 8% have completed up to secondary education. Only 6% of the population has intermediate level education and only a small percentage of 4% are graduate degree holders. Agriculture is the main source of income and livelihood for a majority of the tribals.

Dhanasree *et al.* (2014) in their Socio-Economic Empowerment of Tribal Women in High Altitude and Tribal Zone of Andhra Pradesh revealed that 48.34 per cent of the respondents were illiterates followed by functionally literate (32.77%), primary school (18.89%). Had medium level of annual income followed with low (22.23%) and high (10.55%) levels of annual income and agriculture was the main occupation for majority of the tribal families.

Kumar *et al.* (2014) stated that male and female literacy tribes in Andhra Pradesh were 47.66% and 26.11% and 70 % of the tribal literates fall in primary level of education and only 8% were under middle and secondary level of education.

The purpose of the present paper was to study profile characteristics of tribal women on domestic water sanitation practices in Adilabad district.

METHODOLOGY

For the study, based upon the nature of the research problem and objectives of the present study, experimental research design was selected.

A total of 60 tribal women from three mandals of Adilabad district were selected using random sampling technique. The district of Adilabad was selected purposively as the tribes are densely populated when compared to the other districts of the state. The high incidence of mortality and morbidity among tribals due to unsafe drinking water is also an important factor which led to the selection of this particular location. Tribal mandals selected for the study were Rebbena, Tandur and Kerameri.

Variables selected for the study on profile characteristics: Age, Education, Type of house, Size of family, Occupation. Interview schedule was developed for the study to gather the information from the respondents.

Frequency was used to know the distribution pattern of the respondents according to the variables. Percentages were used for standardization of size by calculating the number of individuals that would be in a given category if the total number of cases were 100.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results of the present study was presented below

The general profile included the variables like age of the respondents, education, occupation, family size, type of house. The following tables present the general profile data of the tribal respondents.

Age: Age of the respondents was measured as revealed by the respondents in the form of no of completed years at the time of interview. Table 1 clearly indicated that majority (46.6%) of the selected tribal women were middle aged followed by young age (35%) and old age (18.3%).

Table 1: Distribution of the Tribal Women Based on their Age N=60

S.No	Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Young age (below 30)	21	35.00
2.	Middle age (31 to 50)	28	46.66
3.	Old age (above 50)	11	18.33
Total		60	100

This might be due to the fact that, as the children grow older, women in middle age are relatively free from responsibilities and they would like to have more real life experiences. At the same time they could easily convince their family members and participate in the developmental activities. The findings were in line with the results reported by Kumari (2004).

Education: Education refers to the academic qualification of the respondents, who were classified in to five categories namely illiterate, primary school, upper primary, higher secondary school, and college education. Results are tabulated as shown below. It is observed from the table 2 that majority (48.33%) of the selected tribal women were illiterate, followed by high school education (23.33%) primary schooling (18.00%). Only 8.33 per cent and 1.6 percent of the tribal women have completed their upper primary schooling and intermediated education respectively.

Table 2: Distribution of the Tribal Women Based on their Education N=60

S.No.	Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Illiterate	29	48.33
2.	Primary education (1-5)	11	18.33
3.	Upper primary education (6-7)	5	8.33
4.	High school education (8-10)	14	23.33
5.	Intermediate	1	1.66
Total		60	100

The possible explanation for this could be that most of the women in tribal areas were not aware of the importance of education. Further cultural barriers also hinder girl's education. This finding was in conformity with the findings reported Lalitha (2014), Dhanasree *et al.* (2014) and Kumari (2004).

Size of Family: It refers to the number of persons living together in one house and to which respondent belonged to. It is observed from the table 3 that more than half of the tribal women belonged to medium size family with 4 to 6 members followed by small size (43.3%) with below three members in a family and only 5% of them belonged to large size family with 8 to 10 members.

Table 3: Distribution of the Tribal Women Based on their Size of Family N=60

S.No.	Size of Family	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Small (1-3)	26	43.33
2.	Medium (4-6)	31	51.66
3.	Large(8-10)	3	5.00
Total		60	100

The above results are a clear evidence for the structural changes in tribal families too where large families are slowly coming down and joint families are gradually disappearing. Poor economic condition accompanied by monetary incentives for adoption of family planning was the important factor for decline in tribal family size, it may be due to the lack of small family norms. The findings were in line with the results reported by Dhanasree *et al.* (2014).

Type of House: It refers to the belongingness of dwelling of the respondents. Type of house is classified into two categories namely kachha and pucca and the results were as follows.

Table 4: Distribution of the Tribal Women Based on their Type of House N=60

S.No	Type of house	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Kachha	20	33.33
2.	Pucca	40	66.66
Total		60	100

It could be vividly seen from the table 4 that 66.66 percent of the tribal women were living in the pucca houses while 33.33 per cent of the tribal women had kachha houses. The reason for having more number of pucca houses is be due to the fact that the selected villages were covered under tribal housing scheme which was implemented through tribal welfare department. The results are supported by findings of the Ministry of tribal affairs (2013) and Lalitha (2014).

Occupation: It refers to the livelihood undertaken by individuals to earn money to meet the monetary needs of the family. These are classified into three categories as given below.

Table 5: Distribution of the Tribal Women Based on their Occupation N=60

S.No.	Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Agriculture	43	71.66
2.	Farm Labor	15	25.00
4.	Forest based livelihood	2	3.33
5.	Business	0	0.00
Total		60	100

The results seen in the table 5 indicated that 71.66 % of the tribal women's main occupation was agriculture followed by farm labor (25.00%) and forest based livelihood (3.33). Obviously agriculture was the most seen occupation in the tribal community. Earlier they used to depend on the minor forest produce like tamarind, firewood, fruits and other plant material. These situations might change in the next generation as majority of the respondents preferred salaried jobs for their children instead of agriculture due to the increased education and awareness. The findings were in line with the results reported by Bhattacharya *et al.* (2011) Dhanasree *et al.* (2014)

CONCLUSIONS

From the study, it was concluded that majority (46.6%) of the tribal women were middle aged followed by young age (35%). Majority of them were illiterates (48.33%), followed by high school education (23.33%) and primary schooling (18%). More than half (51.66%) of them belonged to medium size family followed by small size (43.3%) family. Majority of the tribal women (66.66%) had pucca houses. Agriculture is the main occupation of the majority of the tribal women.

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